



INTERACTIVE, ENGAGING, KNOWLEDGE SHARING EXERCISE

## THE BETTER WATER WORKSHOP SERIES

### WHAT ARE BETTER WATER WORKSHOPS?

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) plans to sponsor 20 Better Water Workshops to support the further implementation of the National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS) in Natural Resource Management regions across Australia from June 2008 to October 2008.

Better Water Workshops are being held to engage participants, build on water quality achievements and current plans and strategies, including help to address regional and local priorities and needs.

Workshops will be designed and delivered in a way that demonstrates leading practice.

A modularised approach will be used to ensure consistency and quality of content together with customised needs-based delivery.

Workshops will be professionally facilitated with an interactive group approach, for each workshop module. Techniques such as problem solving, scenario building and discussion will form the key learning elements of the program.

#### WORKSHOP AIMS

- To help improve water quality management, monitoring and reporting in regional investment strategies and catchment management plans under the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) programmes.
- To assist local communities to improve management of water quality in their local area by explaining key tools in the NWQMS such as environmental values, local water objectives, water quality targets and monitoring and reporting frameworks.
- To transfer skills and knowledge regarding water quality management within a community.

#### WHO WILL THE WORKSHOPS TARGET?

- Those involved in regional water quality management.
- Those unfamiliar with NWQMS guidelines who wish to learn more.

#### WHAT WILL THE WORKSHOPS DO?

- Provide participants with skills for water quality planning.
- Assist in the further development of plans and actions that identify local environmental values, water quality objectives, water quality targets and monitoring and reporting frameworks.
- Provide examples of successful approaches based on the local water quality issues.

#### HOW WILL THE WORKSHOP PROCESS BE UNDERTAKEN?

The process will be run in four phases by the National Better Water Workshop Team of consultants lead by GHD:

- Phase 1.** The workshop schedule will be developed detailing where and when workshops will be held.
- Phase 2.** Workshops will then be tailored to suit local regions' needs.
- Phase 3.** The workshops will then be delivered.
- Phase 4.** Finally, there will be an evaluation of the outcomes of workshops.

## INDICATIVE WORKSHOP MODULES

Each workshop module will contain a bank of training activities so that the depth of treatment can be varied between locations, depending on local need.

### 1. Introducing Water Quality and the Workshop

This module will:

- Introduce the workshop, its objectives and intended outcomes
- Put workshops into context
- Introduce the National Water Quality Management Strategy
- Welcome participants to the workshop and establish a workshop culture

### 2. Planning and decision making for Water Quality Management

This module will cover:

- Why is water quality planning important?
- What range of current regional plans exists and how might they be better integrated to impact on water quality?
- Determining environmental values and how to communicate these to all stakeholders
- Improving water quality through planned actions to meet the highest priority regional issues and problems

### 3. Engaging the community

This module will cover:

- The role of education in community engagement
- How to effectively engage the community with the result of improved water quality
- Achieving behaviour change for improved water quality
- Networking and supporting local activity

### 4. Understanding the relationship between Water Quality and Water Quantity

This module will cover:

- Why water quality is part of the solution?
- The strength of an integrated approach
- Integrating the NWQMS and other planning tools and guidelines.

### 5. Monitoring Evaluating and Reporting

This module will assist all workshop participants to increase their capacity to monitor, evaluate and report on water quality activities. It will be based on the premise that, all successful activities are built upon a real understanding of what works and leading practices.

### 6. Actions on community priorities

This module will cover two perspectives on local action:

- *The Case Study Approach*: which assists participants to analyse local water quality case studies to identify good practice in water quality management and their strengths and limitations.
- *The Action Planning Approach*: A facilitated approach used to assist participants to recognise what community/stakeholders can and should do to implement more effective water quality management.

### 7. Train the trainer

The entire workshop will have a train the trainer orientation. This module will assist participants to draw out core learnings about how to train others about water quality. The module will highlight and demonstrate essential aspects of effective training and good practice.

For more information visit Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website:

<http://www.environment.gov.au>

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